

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 STR-07 SS-15
SSO-00 NSCE-00 L-03 INRE-00 ICAE-00 OIC-02 CCO-00
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
/124 R

DRAFTED BY :EHHEGINBOTHAM:MGH
APPROVED BY :RHOLBROOKE
MR. COOPER
STR:JDONALDSON
C:NPLATT
EB:SAHMED

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Z P 122032Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175864

FOR AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD FROM HOLBROOKE/GENEVA FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MTN, JA, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF US-JAPAN MTN TALKS
BONN FOR DAVID ANDERSON

1. OUR DELEGATION IN GENEVA REPORTS THAT, WHILE NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH THE EC ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY, NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH JAPAN HAVE COME TO A STANDSTILL. THE JAPANESE
ARE UNABLE TO MOVE ON EITHER THE AGRICULTURAL ISSUES (BEEF,
CITRUS, TOBACCO) OR APPROACH PARITY ON THE KEY INDUSTRIAL
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TARIFFS (COLOR FILM, COMPUTERS, KRAFT PAPER). HIGHEST
LEVELS OF USG HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER TURN OF EVENTS
AND POSSIBILITY THAT TRADE MATTERS WILL BECOME A FOCUS OF
SUMMIT. I AM PARTICULARLY WORRIED THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL
ASSUME A TONE CRITICAL OF JAPAN'S PERFORMANCE AND THAT OUR
EFFORTS OVER PAST MONTHS TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF GANGING UP
WITH EC AGAINST JAPAN WILL HAVE FAILED.

2. ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE WHEN YOU SEE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA OFF FOR BONN AT THE AIRPORT THIS MORNING IF YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO RAISE URGENTLY WITH HIM US CONCERN ABOUT THE STATUS OF US-JAPAN MTN TALKS. SUGGEST THAT YOU USE TALKING POINTS ALONG FOLLOWING LINE, WHICH REFLECT CONCERNS OF BOTH BOB STRAUSS AND US.

3. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS HAS REPORTED FROM GENEVA OF HIS DEEP CONCERN AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN US-JAPAN TALKS. WE ARE APPROACHING A SUMMIT IN A SITUATION WHERE US-EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROGRESS ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES HAS REACHED A SATISFACTORY BALANCE OF RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS, BUT US-JAPAN AND JAPAN-EC TALKS ARE CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THAT MARK.

4. AS A RESULT, THE US FEARS THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD REQUIRE A MAJOR FOCUS ON REMAINING MTN PROBLEMS, AND THAT IN THIS ASSESSMENT JAPAN MAY EMERGE AS THE FOCUS OF US AND EC DISSATISFACTIONS. THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE.

5. FOR THIS REASON, WE REQUEST THE PRIME MINISTER'S UTMOST PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO REMAINING MTN ISSUES. IN REGARD TO US-CONFIDENTIAL

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JAPAN TALKS, THESE FOCUS ON THE INADEQUACIES OF JAPAN'S OFFERS ON THE THREE KEY AGRICULTURAL ITEMS (TOBACCO, BEEF, AND CITRUS) AND ON FAILURE TO ACHIEVE PARITY OF OFFERS ON THREE KEY INDUSTRIAL ITEMS (COLOR FILM, COMPUTERS, AND KRAFT PAPER).

6. I AM TAKING THE UNUSUAL STEP OF BRINGING THIS MATTER TO YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECTS WE FEAR FOR THE SUMMIT IF THE PRESENT IMPASSE CONTINUES. WE SHARE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT A PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING UNIFIED RESULTS AT THE SUMMIT. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE JAPAN RISK ISOLATING ITSELF AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ITS POSITION AT THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS.

7. FOR BONN (DAVID ANDERSON): PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THIS MESSAGE IN SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOK. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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